

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EA-07 ISO-00 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAB-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 /093 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5794

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 7024

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNGA, KS, KN, PN

SUBJECT: 30TH UNGA - PANAMANIAN POSITION ON KOREAN QUESTION

REF: (A) USUN 5917; (B) PANAMA 6575

1. WE WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT (INCLUDING DEMARCHES AT HIGHEST LEVELS) TO PERSUADE PANAMA TO SUPPORT FRIENDLY RESOLUTION IN PLENARY INSTEAD OF ABSENTING ITSELF AT TIME OF VOTE AS IT DID IN COMMITTEE ONE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT GOP IS DEEPLY DIVIDED ON KOREAN ISSUE WITH ANTI-ROK PROPONENTS PRESENTLY IN ASCENDANCY.

2. HOWEVER, WE WONDER WHETHER KOREANS IN NEW YORK ARE CORRECTLY READING PANAMANIAN PERMREP BOYD WHEN HE ATTRIBUTES GOP POSITION ON KOREA TO DISSATISFACTION WITH US ATTITUDES ON CANAL ISSUE (REF A). WE THINK THAT BOYD'S REAL MESSAGE MAY BE THAT NEITHER ROK NOR ISRAEL HAVE GIVEN PANAMA ANY SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT ON THE POLITICAL ISSUE OF GREATEST IMPORTANCE TO IT -- THE CANAL NEGOTIATIONS -- WHEREAS THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES PROMOTING ZIONISM RESOLUTION AND HOSTILE KOREAN RESOLUTION HAVE GIVEN VOCAL SUPPORT TO PANAMANIAN CAUSE. AT LEAST THAT IS WHAT BOYD
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HAS TOLD US (REF B).

3. ROK SILENCE ON CANAL ISSUE IS PROBABLY BASED ON DEFERENCE TO US SENSIBILITIES, BUT MANY OF OUR CLOSE FRIENDS (INCLUDING SOME CO-SPONSORS OF FRIENDLY RESOLUTION, E.G., COSTA RICA AND COLOMBIA) ARE ALSO FIRM SUPPORTERS OF PANAMA ON CANAL ISSUE AND THEIR LEADERS HAVE MADE DECLARATIONS TO THAT EFFECT. PERHAPS ROK FONMIN KIM OR AMBASSADOR PARK SHOULD CONSULT WITH AMBASSADOR BOYD TO SEE WHETHER IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME AN ROK EXPRESSION THAT IT HOPES US AND PANAMA CAN NEGOTIATE A TREATY WHICH ESTABLISHES A NEW RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND WHICH TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE JUST ASPIRATIONS OF THE PANAMANIAN PEOPLE TO ABROGATE THE 1903 TREATY AND EXERCISE JURISDICTION OVER ITS ENTIRE NATIONAL TERRITORY. SUCH A STATEMENT IS FULLY IN LINE WITH KISSINGER-TACK STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES GOVERNING CANAL NEGOTIATIONS AND OFT-STATED USG DECLARATIONS REGARDING ITS INTENTION TO NEGOTIATE SUCH A TREATY. IT MIGHT HELP INFLUENCE BOYD.

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